

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1 - 11. (CANCELED)

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lithium battery comprising:

a generation element which generates electrical power;

a can to house the generation element, the can including first and second surfaces, the first surface including a first terminal electrically connected to the generation element and the second surface including a second terminal electrically connected to the generation element;

an output lead, made of a first material or an alloy thereof, electrically coupled to the second terminal;

a first lead, electrically coupled to the first terminal, including a layer of the first material or an alloy thereof and a cladding layer made of a second material or an alloy thereof; and

a safety device that is electrically coupled to both the output lead and the first lead, the safety device comprising:

a portion of the first lead where the cladding layer of the first lead is connected to the can,

a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element, adjacent to the portion of the first lead such that the PTC element is separated from the can by the portion of the first lead, to interrupt a current between the output lead and the first lead upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can, and

an extension of the first material or an alloy thereof of the output lead adjacent to the PTC element.

13 - 14. (CANCELED)

15. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a safety vent which exhausts internal gas when pressure inside the can increases past a predetermined level, the safety vent being at the second surface of the can.

16. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 15, wherein:
the can further comprises an opening through which the generation element is introduced into the can, and a cap which closes the opening, and
the safety vent is disposed on the cap.

17. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the safety device interrupts current flowing therethrough when a voltage of the battery sharply increases.

18 - 26. (CANCELED)

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first lead is attached to the first surface using ultrasonic welding.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first lead is attached to the first surface using resistance welding.

29-34. (CANCELED)

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first material comprises nickel and the second material comprises aluminum.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a protection circuit electrically coupled in series between a lead attached to the second terminal and the output lead to prevent over-charging and/or over-discharging.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the protection circuit, the leads, and the safety device are disposed exterior to the can.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lithium battery including a generation element to generate electrical power housed in a can including first and second terminals electrically coupled to the generation element, the battery comprising:

- an output lead, made of a first material or an alloy thereof, electrically coupled to the second terminal;

- a first lead, electrically coupled to the first terminal, including a layer of the first material or an alloy thereof and a cladding layer made of a second material or an alloy thereof; and

- a safety device that is electrically coupled to both the output lead and the first lead, the safety device comprising:

 - a portion of the first lead where the cladding layer of the first lead is connected to the can,

 - a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element, adjacent to the portion of the first lead such that the PTC element is separated from the can by the portion of the first lead, to interrupt a current between the output lead and the first lead upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can, and

 - an extension of the first material or an alloy thereof of the output lead adjacent to the PTC element.